#### M E R M N D IJ M Α

TO:

Kathleen Allen, Administrator

**Ethics Administration** 

FROM:

Robin Gremillion, Dire

Disclosure Division

DATE:

January 22, 2016

DOCKET:

2016.056

RE:

VARNADO, JOHNIE M.

Tier 2.1 Annual Personal Financial Disclosure Statement covering 2013

Alexandria Regional Port Authority

Late Fee: \$1500

WAIVER REQUEST

Johnie Varnado served as a member of the Alexandria Regional Port Authority for approximately 16 years. Her term expired in April 2013. Ms. Varnado has filed six disclosure statements and/or amendments with this agency.

On December 23, 2015, Attorney Michael Johnson submitted correspondence requesting a waiver for Ms. Varnado. Mr. Johnson stated that Ms. Varnado volunteers for a variety of charitable organizations and vouches for her integrity.

On January 5, 2016, Ms. Varnado submitted correspondence and documentation to support her position. She stated that she was unaware of the Notice that was issued on January A review of the green card receipt indicates that Harold Varnado signed for the Notice. Ms. Varnado also stated that during that time see was under a doctor's care and receiving medical treatment. The chronology follows:

## Tier 2.1 Annual Personal Financial Disclosure Statement covering 2013

Original PFD due date: May 15, 2014

NOD-FF Received: February 2, 2015

PFD due date based on receipt of NOD: February 11, 2015

PFD filed: August 20, 2015

Days late from receipt of NOD:

Total days late from initial due date: 463

Late Fee Order Received: December 18, 2015

Payment or waiver request due date: December 23, 2016

Waiver request received: December 23, 2015

Other PFD Late Fees: No

Other CF Late Fees: No

Other Outstanding Disclosures: No

**Prior Disclosure Late Fees:** No

Reassessed Late Fees: No



# STATE OF LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF STATE CIVIL SERVICE

#### LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS

P. O. BOX 4368 BATON ROUGE, LA 70821 (225) 219-5600 FAX: (225) 381-7271 1-800-842-6630 www.ethics.state.la.us

January 29, 2015

CERTIFIED MAIL

NO. 70120470000060011137

RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Johnie M Varnado 203 Ridgewood Blvd Alexandria, LA 71303

NOTICE OF DELINQUENCY - FAILURE TO FILE Statement covering 2013 Alexandria Regional Port Authority

Pursuant to La. R.S. 42:1124.4, if a person fails to file a Personal Financial Disclosure Statement as required by 42:1124, 1124.2, 1124.2.1, or 1124.3; omits information; or files inaccurately, a Notice of Delinquency shall be issued. A review of our records indicates that we have not received your Personal Financial Disclosure Statement covering 2013.

You have 7 business days from the date of receipt of this Notice to file your Tier 2.1 Personal Financial Disclosure Statement covering 2013, or to submit an Answer explaining why you feel you are not required to file a Personal Financial Disclosure Statement. Failure to file a Personal Financial Disclosure Statement or an Answer within the 7 business days will subject you to an automatic late fee of \$50 per day up to a maximum of \$1,500. Proof of timely filing is determined by the U.S. Postal Service postmark; receipt from the U.S. Postal Service; or receipt from a commercial delivery service.

The form for the Tier 2.1 Personal Financial Disclosure Statement (Form 417) is available on the Louisiana Board of Ethics website at www.ethics.state.la.us. If you have any questions, you may contact a Disclosure Division employee at 225/219-5600 or 800/842-6630.

	1
SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION	COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY
Complete Items 1, 2, and 3. Also complete item 4 if Restricted Delivery is desired.  Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.  Attach this card to the back of the malipiece, or on the front if space permits.	A. Signature  X. Agent  Addresses  B. Received by (Printed Name)  C. Date of Delivery  Lary L. Varanco 2-2-15
1. Article Addressed to:	D. is delivery address different from item 1?
203 Ridgewood Blvd Alexandria, LA 71303	3. Service Type  El Certified Mail* Priority Mail Express**  Registered Receipt for Merchandise  Insured Mail Collect on Delivery
	4. Restricted Delivery? (Extra Fee)
Article Number  (Transfer from service label) 12 7012 0	470 0000 6001 1137
Porm 5811, July 2013-20 NCJI Spenestic R	eturn Receipt

## **LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS**

Post Office Box 4368 Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821

# TIER 2.1 PERSONAL FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (ANNUAL)

THE TENED TO THE TOTAL DISCLOSURE STATE INTERIOR (ANNUAL)
This Report Covers Calendar Year: 2013
⊠ORIGINAL REPORT
□AMENDED REPORT
I currently hold an office that would require me to file a Tier 3 Personal Financial Disclosure Statement.
As such, I have completed SCHEDULE D.
Name of Filer (print full name): Johnie Varnado
Mailing Address: 203 Ridgewood Blvd.
City, State, Zip: Alexandria, LA 71303
Name of Board/Commission (no abbreviations):  Alexandria Regional Port Authority
Date of Appointment: 05/1/1997
Date Appointment Expires: 04/30/2013
Name of Spouse (print full name): Harold L. Varnado
Spouse's Occupation: Retired Disable Veteran
Principal Business Address: N/A
City, State, Zip: N/A
CHECK ONE:  Neither I, nor any member of my immediate family, have a personal or financial interest in any entity, contract, or business, or a personal or financial relationship, that in any way poses a conflict of interest, which would affect the impartial performance of my duties as a member of the board or commission.  □ I have attached a statement describing any conflicts, and actions I am taking to resolve or avoid the conflicts.
Check all that apply:
☑I have filed my state income tax return for the previous year.
☐I have filed for an extension of my state income tax return for the previous year.
☑I have filed my federal income tax return for the previous year.
I have filed for an extension of my federal income tax return for the previous year.
NOTE: La. R.S. 42:1124.2.1 does not provide you the opportunity to request an extension in filing your
personal financial disclosure statement.
Certification of Accuracy
I do hereby certify that the information contained in this personal financial disclosure statement is
true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.
Signature of Filer

Revised November 2014

Form 417

Signature of Filer www.ethics.la.gov



# STATE OF LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF STATE CIVIL SERVICE

#### **LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS**

P. O. BOX 4368 BATON ROUGE, LA 70821 (225) 219-5600 FAX: (225) 381-7271 1-800-842-6630 www.ethics.state la us

CERTIFIED MAIL

NO. 70151520000288905391

RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

December 14, 2015

Johnie M Varnado 203 Ridgewood Blvd Alexandria, LA 71303

RE: Tier 2.1 Annual Personal Financial Disclosure Statement for calendar year 2013

Alexandria Regional Port Authority

Late Fee Assessment - Report: PFD15011553

Dear Ms. Varnado:

Enclosed is an assessment of a late fee pursuant to La. R.S. 42:1124.4. Please submit a check or money order in the amount of \$1,500 payable to the *Louisiana State Treasurer*, Post Office Box 4368, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821.

You have 20 days from the receipt of this letter to submit payment or dispute this assessment. To dispute the assessment, you may elect to:

• Request a waiver to the Board of Ethics

If you choose to request a waiver of the late fee, your request should include specific details, along with supporting documentation, as to why, in your opinion, you have good cause for not timely filing the report and why the late fee should be reduced, suspended, or waived. The request should be submitted to the attention of: Louisiana Board of Ethics, Post Office Box 4368, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821. You may also fax the request to 225/381-7271. Also, if you would like to appear before the Board of Ethics in connection with your request, you should state that in your request. If you request an appearance, you will be notified of the place and time prior to the meeting.

• Appeal the assessment directly to the *Ethics Adjudicatory Board*If you choose to appeal the assessment of the late fee, the proceedings will go before a three judge panel of administrative law judges. The panel will determine if you were required to file the disclosure statement and whether the disclosure statement was filed late. Mitigating factors are not considered. The Ethics Adjudicatory Board does not have the authority to reduce, suspend, or waive a late fee assessment. If you choose to appeal the assessment, you should submit your request to the attention of: Executive Secretary, Ethics Administration, Post Office Box 4368, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821. You may also fax the request to 225/381-7271.

If you do not pay, dispute, or appeal the assessment of the late fee, the matter will be forwarded to the Attorney General's Office to pursue collection. If the matter is forwarded to the Attorney General's Office for collection, you may be responsible for all additional costs incurred. Additionally, late fees not paid by the due date will be posted on the agency website.

You should be aware that unpaid fines, fees, or penalties may have an adverse effect on your ability to run for public office, as the *Board of Ethics* will object to your candidacy in future elections pursuant to La. R.S. 18:491 and 18:492.

If you have any questions, you may contact Robin Gremillion at 225/219-5600 or 1-800-842-6630. Sincerely,

Donna Bourgeois

Administrative Coordinator

## STATE OF LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS

In Re: Tier 2.1 Annual Personal Financial Disclosure Statement 2013
Alexandria Regional Port Authority
Late Fee Assessment – Report: PFD15011553

ORDER

JOHNIE M VARNADO was required to file a Tier 2.1 Annual Personal Financial Disclosure Statement for calendar year 2013 pursuant to La. R.S. 42:1124 et seq.

On , JOHNIE M VARNADO received a Notice of Delinquency for failing to file the disclosure statement. The notice required that the disclosure statement be filed by February 11, 2015 (pursuant to La. R.S. 42:1124.4). JOHNIE M VARNADO filed the Tier 2.1 Annual Personal Financial Disclosure Statement for calendar year 2013 on August 20, 2015 and was 190 days late.

La. R.S. 42:1124.4 authorizes the assessment of a \$50 late fee per day (not to exceed \$1,500) against JOHNIE M VARNADO for this late filing.

Accordingly, **IT IS ORDERED** that a late fee of \$1,500 be assessed against JOHNIE M VARNADO for failing to timely file the Tier 2.1 Annual Personal Financial Disclosure Statement for calendar year 2013.

**ORDER** signed on the 14th day of December 2015 at Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Robin Gremillion, Director

Disclosure Division

SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION	AHarold Vannado
■ Complete items 1, 2, and ?	Alland
■ Print your name and add so that we can return	→ Agent
■ Attach this card to the base or on the front if space pare	B Hacelland C. Date of Deliver
Article Addressed to:	D. Is delivery address different from item 1?   Yes
Johnie M Varnado	If YES, enter delivery address below:
203 Ridgewood Blvd	
Alexandria, LA 71303	
110001 (1994) Sealed Higher States (1904) Water States (1904) Sealer Sta	
9590 9403 0948 5223 6916 99	3. Service Type DB Priority Mail Express® Registered Mail™ Registered Mail™ Registered Mail® Delivery Certified Mail Restricted Delivery Receipt for
	☐ Collect on Delivery Merchandise
7015 1520 0002 <b>8</b> 890 5391	ired Mail Signature Confirmation Timsured Mail Restricted Delivery Restricted Delivery
	(over \$500)



Alexandria, La. Ph. 318.484.3911 Fax 318.484.3585

December 23, 2015

Baton Rouge, La. Ph. 225.296.0016

2015 DEC 23 AM II: 1,

Mr. Michael Dupree Louisiana Board of Ethics 617 N. Third Street LaSalle Building, Suite 10-36 Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Re:

Docket No. 2015-576

Dear Mike:

As per our conversation on December 23, 2015, I am assisting my friend, Mrs. Johnnie Varnado, in this matter. Mrs. Varnado is a very nice lady, who is actively involved in numerous charities and volunteer work. She is also a small business owner, who works very hard to keep her business open and employ several people. I tell you that only because I think it speaks to the character of the kind of person she is and the kind of person who takes care of business in most circumstances.

Ms. Varnado served for 16 years as a volunteered, non-paid Board Member of the Port Authority here in Central Louisiana. She has never had any Ethics Board complaints or violations, and has always complied with the requirements of reporting.

In the year in question, she was replaced on the Board by a new Commissioner. She inquired of the Board Attorney if it was necessary to file anything with the Ethics Board, given the fact that she had been replaced early in that particular year and was told she did not. I know that is not an excuse and has never been an acceptable explanation for failure to comply with the ethics requirements. I offered that solely as an explanation and not an excuse.

When this matter came up, Mrs. Varnado was struggling with a medical condition and was not made aware that a notice of late filing had been sent to her home. I believe that the return on that letter does not have her signature, but someone else that lives in the home and who did not understand the seriousness of the nature, and was also concerned

about her health. As a result of those health issues and a struggling business, Mrs. Varnado is not in the position to pay anything toward a fine, no longer is in any voluntary board position under the jurisdiction of the State or the Ethics Board, and given her current condition does not ever anticipate that she ever will be again.

I am asking as a citizen, and as her friend and attorney if the Board might on this one occasion grant her a waiver with a private reprimand or letter of reprimand. I can supply additional information and perhaps even medical records if that is necessary to satisfy the determination that this matter is worthy of a waiver. Please consider this a timely response to the most recent notification from the Board, and please contact me if you need any additional information or if any additional filings are necessary to further protect my friend, Mrs. Varnado.

I appreciate the work of the Board and appreciate the dedication that you have shown the Board for many years, and look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for courtesies and cooperation.

With kindest regards and best holiday wishes,

JOHNSON, SIEBENEICHER & INGRAM

A Professional Law Con

\_ \_

Michael T. Jøhnsøn

MTJ/lrp

# bettyz

StreemCenter Fax 12-23-2015 /12:40

# KaZette Enterprises, Inc. 1501A Wimbledon Boulevard Alexandria, LA 71301

"Integrating people with technology since 1986"

Fax Cover Letter  DATE: / 5 / 20 / 6 TIME: 2.58 p.M.  NAME: Roburn  FIRM: Board of Fluco  FAX NUMBER: 225 - 38 / - 72.7 /  FROM: While Warned  NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER LETTER): /2  If you experience any problems with this transaction, please call (318) 442-3593. We are sending from (318) 487-8401.  MESSAGE:  PAU OUR DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PAGE CALL (318) 442-3593. We are sending from (318) 487-8401.		
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## KAZETTE ENTERPRISES, INC.

December 22, 2015

Louisiana Board of Ethics Post Office Box 4368 Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Re: Request to waiver

My name is Johnie Varnado and I am writing this letter to request a waiver of the late fee for filling my Tier 2.1 Annual Personal Financial Disclosure statement for calendar year 2013 for serving on the Alexandria Regional Port Authority Board.

The following information reflects the details for not timely filing the report and why in my opinion, the late fee should be waived. First, I was not made aware of the first letter that was sent to my home and received by my husband. In addition, during that time I was having medical issues as you can see from the attached documentation that supports my request.

Brief history: I was first appointed to the Board was for a 4-year term beginning in 1997 through April 30, 2001. I remained a commissioner as a hold-over from May 1, 2001 – April 30, 2013 at the request of the Mayor. I served until July 2013. (see attachment copy of Port minutes for June & July 2013 noting my attendance and presiding as President at the board meeting.)

Each year I religiously completed and filed the Tier 2.1 Annual Personal Financial Disclosure Statement on-line in compliance with the guidelines. It is my understanding that my 2013 statement was due March 15, 2014. I have attached medical records that support on October 30, 2013 I was admitted into the hospital and treated for a stroke. (see attachment B - physicians and nurses' notes; test results, consultations with specialists & referrals in Houston). I am currently still seeing neurologists in Houston and dealing with residuals of the stroke. One of the residuals symptoms that occurred after the stroke is my memory, especially short-term memory. Apparently I failed to remember to file the 2013 final document even though it was prepared and ready to send.

I would be very grateful if you would consider my request favorably. Any additional information you might require I would be happy to provide. I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my request.

Sincerely Yours,

Johnie M. Varnado

KaZette Enterprises, Inc.

"Integrating People With Technology Since 1986"

5411 Coliseum Blvd, Ste. A, Alexandria, LA 71303, (318) 442-3593, Fax (318) 487-8401

2016 JAN -5 PH 3: 14